



THE MAXX



image COMICS PRESENTS:



story & art
SAM KIETH

finishes
JIM SINCLAIR

story editor/lettering
MIKE HEISLER

color
STEVE OLIFF
and **OLYOPTICS**

logo
CHANCE WOLF

film output
KELL-O-GRAPHICS

OLYOPTICS:

Tracey Anderson, Stacy Cox,
Michael (Jerm) Jeremiah, Patti Stratton Jordan,
Chris (Bar-BQ) McHugh, Tami Lee Pleck, Quinn Supplee.

FOR IMAGE COMICS

Executive Director:

LARRY MARDER

Art Director:

DOUG GRIFFITH

Production Manager:

RONNA COULTER

Graphic Design:

KENNY FELIX

Distribution:

GERMAINE ZACHARIAH

Accounting Administrator:

LEE PATIN

Foreign Licensing:

SHAY CROCKER

Communications Director

KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM

MAXX #24. MAY 1996. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Title published by Image Comics, 1440 N. Harbor Boulevard, #305 Fullerton, CA 92635. Entire contents TM and © 1996 Sam Kieth, all rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Somebody said I was hard up for indicia lines. Uh...uh am NOT! With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Sam Kieth. Send correspondence to: Sam Kieth, 4363 Hazel Avenue, Suite 1-285, Fair Oaks, California, 95628. (nghtime@aol.com). Publishers and creator assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials or classified ads.

PRINTED IN CANADA.



YOU
ARTEMIS
GONE?

NOPE,
NAME'S
PENDER.

SHE SAID YOU'D
SAY THAT, BUT SHE
TOLD ME THAT IF
WE WERE EVER
SEPARATED... THAT
YOU WOULD--

LOOK, KID, I'D
LIKE TO HELP YOU
FIND YOUR MOM,
BUT I'VE RETIRED
FROM THE
SHELTER AND--

YOU USED TO
KNOW HER, MY
NAME'S MARK,
MARK WI--

I KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE.

I'VE LOST
TRACK OF HER, BUT
THERE'S A GUY NAMED
DAVE... HE MAY'VE KEPT
UP WITH HER. LAST I
HEARD, HE WORKED
DOING MAINTENANCE
DOWNTOWN AT
THIS ADDRESS.

NOW
PLEASE GO!
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH
GHOSTS
REAPPEAR
LATELY.

NORBERT WENT
BACK TO THE DUMP TO
BUILD A MASK TO COVER
HIS CONSPICUOUSLY LONG
FACE. AT LEAST IT GIVES
ME TIME TO DIGEST
EVERYTHING THAT'S
HAPPENED.

THIS IS
ALL DAD'S
FAULT.

THAT GIRL
LOOKS SAD.

SHE
NEEDS A
BIG HUG.



I BET
GETTING ME TO
TAKE THIS **STUPID**
URN IS JUST YOUR
LAME ATTEMPT TO
WORM YOUR WAY
BACK INTO MY
HEART.

EVEN IF
YOU **DID** TRY
AND HELP RAPE
VICTIMS, TOO
LITTLE TOO
LATE, I SAY.

WHERE WERE
YOU WHEN IT
COUNTED... WHEN
MOM NEEDED YOU,
HUH? AND WHERE
WERE YOU...



...WHEN I
WAS FOUR
YEARS
OLD?

EVER SINCE I
LET **THIS** STUPID
THING INTO MY
HOUSE, MY WHOLE
WORLD'S BEEN
COMING **APART**
AT THE SEAMS!

WELL, NO
MORE!

SPLASH



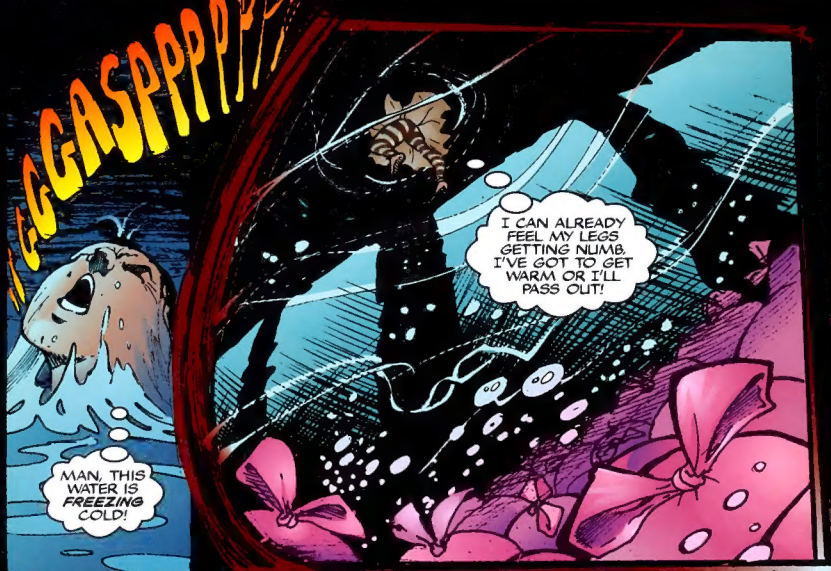
YOU'VE
LIED TO ME
FOR THE
LAST TIME.

YOU CAN LIE
TO ME, DADDY,
BUT YOU'RE
ONLY FOOLING
YOURSELF.

AND I'LL MAKE YOU
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT
ALL THAT CRAP YOU
PULLED TEN YEARS
AGO REALLY **DID**
HAPPEN...







MAN, THIS
WATER IS
FREEZING
COLD!

I CAN ALREADY
FEEL MY LEGS
GETTING NUMB.
I'VE GOT TO GET
WARM OR I'LL
PASS OUT!

CREAK

OH SH*T,
HE'S STILL
UP THERE.

MAYBE I
CAN GET
A PEEK...

HEY, MAYBE I
OVERREACTED AND
HE'S A HARMLESS GUY
WHO DOESN'T EVEN
KNOW I'M DOWN
HERE FREEZING MY
ASS OFF.

OH-MY-GOD! IT
REALLY IS A BIG
YELLOW BANANA
SLUG. THAT MUST
BE THE ONE THAT
NORBERT CALLED
IAGO--

--OH NO, HE
SAW ME!



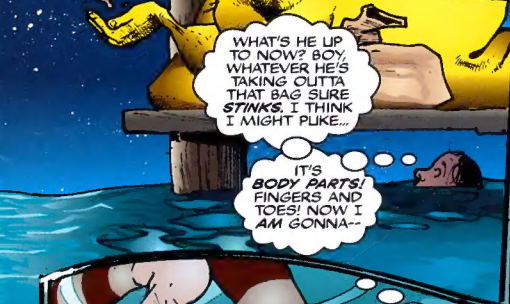


HMM...
SUDDENLY
HANGING OUT
UNDER THE PIER
DOESN'T LOOK
SO BAD...

THIS CAN'T
BE HAPPENING.
WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING TO
ME?

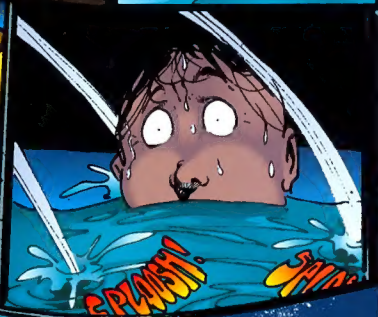


BOY, HE REALLY
WANTS A HANDFUL
OF MY SORRY BUTT.
WELL, REACH ALL
YOU WANT, SLUGGO,
I AIN'T MOVIN'.



WHAT'S HE UP
TO NOW? BOY,
WHATEVER HE'S
TAKING OUTTA
THAT BAG SURE
STINKS. I THINK
I MIGHT PUKE...

IT'S
BODY PARTS!
FINGERS AND
TOES! NOW I
AM GONNA--



SPLASH!



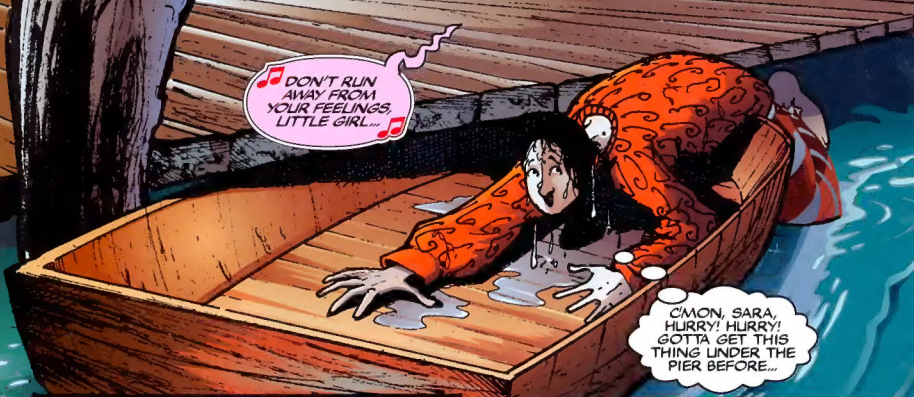
OH NO!
WHAT'S THAT?
PIRANHAS?

HE'S TRYING TO
SEND WHATEVER'S
DOWN THERE INTO A
FEEDING FRENZY--

--AND IT'S
WORKING.



I'VE GOT
TO GET TO THAT
BOAT, AND QUICK!
BEFORE I'M EATEN
ALIVE!



C'MON, SARA,
HURRY! HURRY!
GOTTA GET THIS
THING UNDER THE
PIER BEFORE...



THAT'S
IT...

...KEEP
GOING...



THERE!!
SCREW YOU,
BUDDY!



NOW IF I CAN
STOP *SHAKING*,
MAYBE I CAN
CATCH MY BREATH
AND THINK!



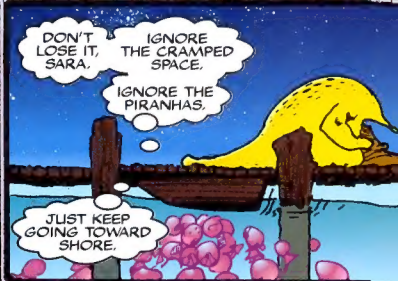
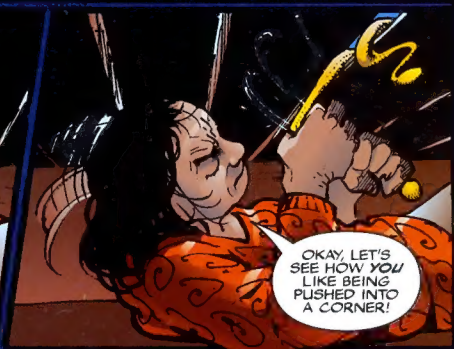
MY BEST BET IS
TO KEEP THIS PIER
BETWEEN ME AND
HIM, AND SLOWLY
WORK MY WAY BACK
TO *SHORE*. THAT
SHOULD WORK.



THAT'S
RIGHT,
BUDDY...

YOU CAN
"LOOKIE"...

...BUT NO
"TOUCHIE!"



I THINK I'M
GETTING LOOPY.
HOW DO I GET
MYSELF INTO
THESE THINGS?

I WISH I WAS
WITH STEVE, BACK
HOME. OR EVEN
WITH NORBERT,
AT THE DUMP.
ANYWHERE BUT...
BUT...

OH--
LOOKIE, PRETTY
MOONLIGHT...
THAT REMINDS
ME OF--

DAMMIT!
HERE WE GO
AGAIN!

FINE, WHATEVER.
TAKE THE STUPID
SKIRT.

HEY--
LEGGO
O'NY--

OOFFFFF!

OKAY--I WON'T FIT!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I
HAVE TO BE ROTATED
BEFORE HE GETS IT?

...LEG.

OUCH!
STOP
TWISTING IT,
YOU STUPID
@##%&#!



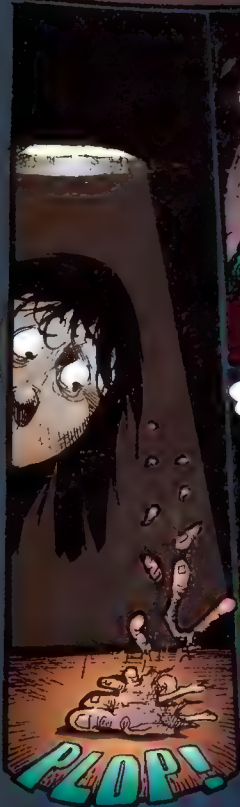
FINALLY! BOY,
IS THIS SLUG
DENSE! MAYBE
NOW HE'LL LEAVE
ME ALONE!

I CAN'T KEEP
GOING LIKE
THIS--I FEEL LIKE
I'M GOING TO
CRACK UP.



YOU KNOW, IF I
WAS A WEAKER
PERSON, I MIGHT
HAVE BURST INTO
TEARS BY NOW.

BUT IT'S
GOING TO
TAKE A LOT
MORE THAN
THIS TO...



WELL, IF
HE THINKS
THROWING BODY
PARTS WILL DRIVE
ME OUT OF THIS
BOAT--FAT
CHANCE!

LINDERNEATH...
SOMETHING'S...
TRYING TO...



SPURT!



OH MAN!
THEY CAN
SMELL THE
FINGERS!



GREAT!
NOW WATER'S
LEAKING IN!

HE
WANTS 'EM
TO EAT RIGHT
THROUGH THE
BOAT, EH?

WELL,
WE'LL
JUST SEE
ABOUT
THAT...



THERE! HAVE
YOUR FEEDING
FRENZY OVER
THERE!

BOY,
THEY'RE
STARVED!
LOOK AT
'EM!


SPLASH!

HMM...
SINCE WHEN DO
PIRANHAS HAVE
BOWS ON THEIR
HEADS?



OKAY,
THIS IS
IT...

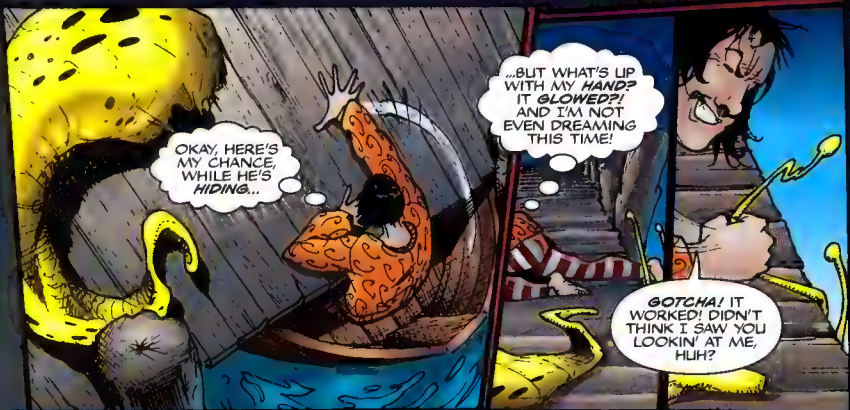
...IT'S
OVER.



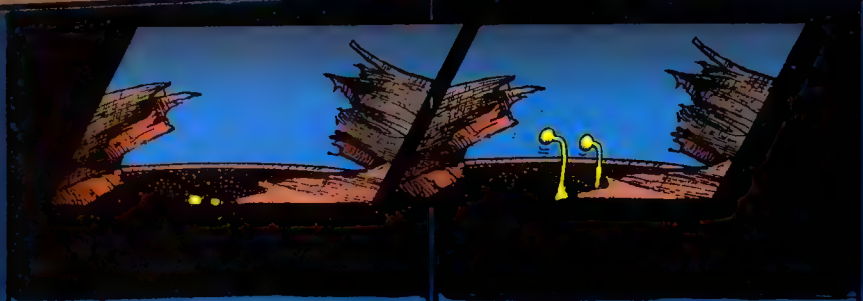
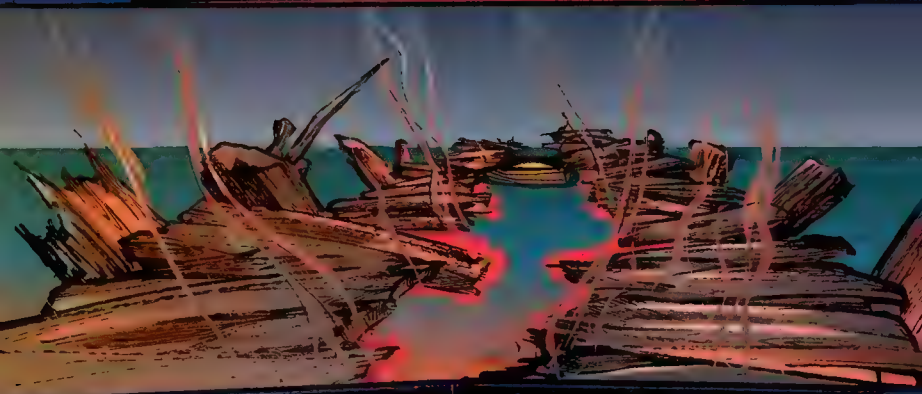
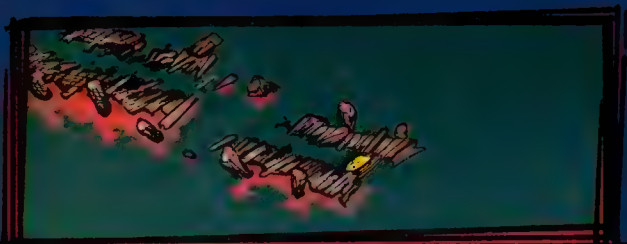
AWWW, SCREW
IT! HE WANTS
A FIGHT?

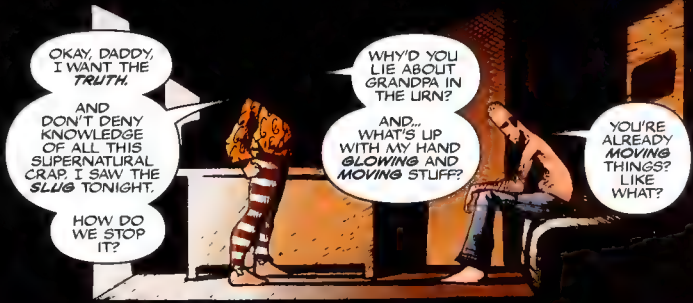
HE'S
GONNA
GET ONE.











OKAY, DADDY,
I WANT THE
TRUTH.

AND
DON'T DENY
KNOWLEDGE
OF ALL THIS
SUPERNATURAL
CRAP. I SAW THE
SLUG TONIGHT.

HOW DO
WE STOP
IT?

WHY'D YOU
LIE ABOUT
GRANDPA IN
THE URN?

AND...
WHAT'S UP
WITH MY HAND
GLOWING AND
MOVING STUFF?

YOU'RE
ALREADY
MOVING
THINGS?
LIKE
WHAT?



A *PIER*.

A WHOLE
PIER?!! YOU
MOVED A
WHOLE
SHITTY
PIER?!



WELL...
MORE LIKE
"TRASHED"...

COOL.

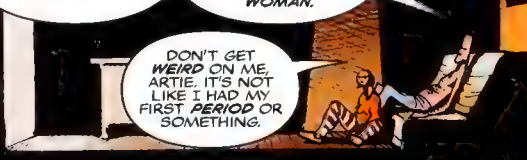


LOOK,
I DON'T
BELIEVE
IN THIS
CRAP.

I *CAN'T* EXPLAIN
IT...IF I'M EXPLODING
PIERS, CHANCES ARE
THAT *YOU'RE* BEHIND
IT.

IT'S NOT *MY* DOING,
HONEY. IT'S COMING
FROM YOU. AND IT'S A
POSITIVE FORCE, NOT
EVIL. BELIEVE IT OR
NOT, IT'S TIED TO THE
MENSTRUAL CYCLE, AND
IT'S BEEN *OVERDUE* IN
YOUR DEVELOPMENT.

I GUESS THE
STRESS BROUGHT IT
ALL SPILLING OUT AT
ONCE, BUT DON'T BE
ASHAMED, SARA--IT'S
BEAUTIFUL. MY LITTLE
GIRL'S BECOME A
WOMAN.



DON'T GET
WEIRD ON ME,
ARTIE. IT'S NOT
LIKE I HAD MY
FIRST *PERIOD* OR
SOMETHING.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING LESS WEIRD--I LIKE STOPPING THAT 300 POUND KILLER SLUG?

NORBERT'S RIGHT, SARA. GET THE LIST AND YOU STOP IAGO.

OKAY... WHERE'S THE LIST?

WELL, IAGO'S GOT ONE, AND THE OTHER ONE'S...

..IN THE URN.

WHAT?

SH*T.

IT'S MY GIFT TO YOU, SARA. I KNEW IF I TOLD YOU THAT YOUR GRANDDAD WAS IN IT, YOU'D KEEP IT TUCKED AWAY SAFE AND SOUND.

IF YOU CAN WARN THE OTHERS ON THE LIST, IAGO'S REASON FOR BEING WOULD DISAPPEAR...AND HIM WITH IT.

DAMMIT, DADDY, WHERE WERE YOU WHEN IT MATTERED? WHEN HE AND MOM NEEDED YOU? OUT SCREWING WOMEN OVER!

NOW THAT I'M TOO OLD TO NEED A DAD, YOU DECIDE TO BE MR. NICE GUY...NOW THAT IT'S TOO LATE.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE TOO OLD TO NEED ONE, SARA?

COMPLETELY.

OKAY.

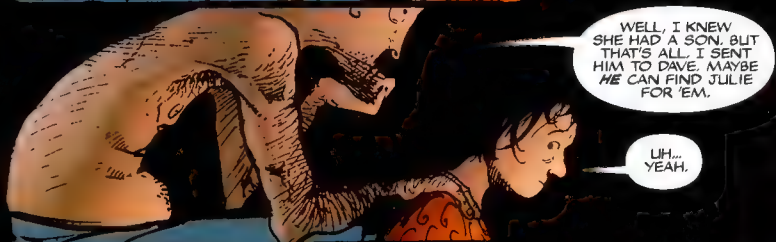
WELL, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY MORE MATURE THAN ME, CAUSE I REALLY MISS HAVING A DAUGHT--

LOOK, I'M NOT SURE I CAN EVER TRUST OR LOVE YOU AGAIN...

BUT I'M WILLING TO LISTEN TO YOUR EXPLANATION OF HOW YOU CAME TO BE THIS WAY.

IN FACT, I'M GONNA KEEP COMING BACK HERE UNTIL YOU'RE WILLING TO...

WELL, SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU'RE READY TO HEAR IT, AND I'M READY TO SHARE...IT'S ALL OVER THERE...

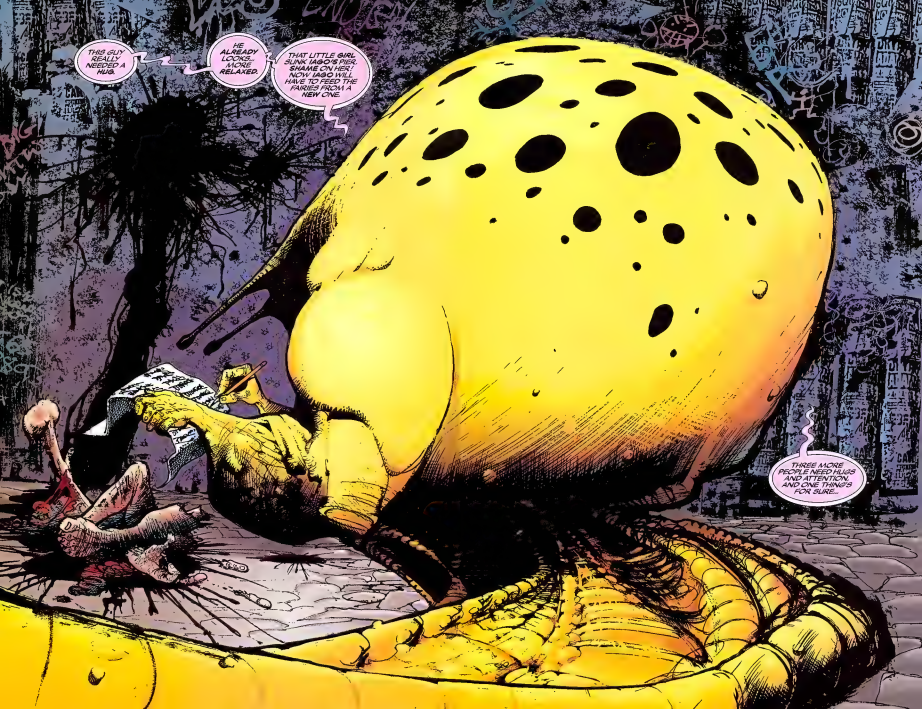


THIS GUY
REALLY
NEEDED A
HUG.

HE
ALREADY
LOOKS
A LITTLE
RELAXED.

THAT LITTLE GIRL
SUNK JABO'S PIER.
SHAME ON HER!
NOW JABO WILL
HAVE TO FEED THE
FARMER FROM A
NEW ONE.

THREE MORE
PEOPLE NEED HUGS
AND ATTENTION
AND ONE THING'S
FOR SURE...





...THE FAIRIES
WON'T GO
HUNGRY
TONIGHT.



Well, it finally happened. Between Bill's schedule of doing five other books and him trying to nudge me into writing a few issues of my own (like #16), I decided to own up to the madness I've started and write this book myself. While I'll miss Bill terribly, he'll have more time to work on *Journey* and other projects that are his. But this won't be the last you'll see of him in these pages, hopefully, 'cause he's promised a crossover with his *Journey* character, Wolverine McAlister, in a future issue. Until then, I'm afraid you're stuck with me, with help from Old Uncle Mike. (Please don't be too hard on us; we're still learning as we go.)

Dear Sam,

Uh...I guess your comic book THE MAXX is the best I've ever read. I'm only 11 but I sure know if a comic is good or not.

If you know, am I your youngest fan?

Austin Havicar
Houston, TX

Sorry, Austin, but Phillip Banks of Blytheville, AR (who sent us a drawing) beat you out at the ripe old age of 7, although it seems to me we've gotten stuff from even younger.

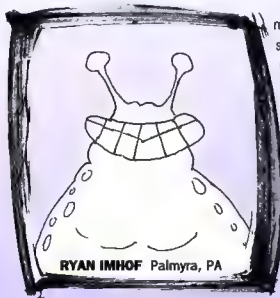
Dear Sam,

Yes, you're right, Alan did write a cool story. Mr. Gone (Artie) is still a nasty dude, even if he's lying about it to Sara. (What's that saying about

a leopard not changing its spots?) But anyway, the focus on Sara is just fine with me. It looks like her character has no real direction anymore, and another confrontation

with Mr. Gone (Artie) could help push her back into some much-needed self reliance. And if not that, it should

JEREMY TINDER



focused on Sara's story.

John R. Shearer
North Olmsted, OH

Dear Sam,

1. How did Sara, after nailing shut the bathroom flap, get out of her john? I've looked all over the floor plan, but I can't see another exit.
2. Are the "Friends of Maxx" stories going to replace the regular Maxx for that month?

Sincerely,
Brian Steggeman
Lawton, OK

1. You got the wrong flap. The cat flap by the toilet (nailed shut) is 6"X9". The door flap (at the other end) is 3'X3'. P.S. I forgot to draw the cat flap in the map in #21.

2. No, not replace—normally I took every third month to catch up, but instead I decided to do twice the work and pump out 48 pages of "Friends of Maxx" instead. Pretty stoopid, huh?

Sam & Company,

"My role in society, or any artist's or poet's role is to try and express what we all feel. Not to tell people how to feel. Not as a preacher, not as a leader, but as a reflection of us all."—John Lennon

Well I think you have done a grand job of reflecting the emotions of many of us lost within society. Keep it up!! You guys Rock!!!!

Jenny Gaitsch
Nashville, TN

P.S. Ish 22 you spelled my friend Sean's

last name wrong; it's LAMBERGER not Sanberger. Just thought I would tell you!! OHH!! What's up with Fred Flower & Uncle Italian Moose?!! Anything?
Nope.

Caribou Sam,

Hey,, about ish 22: Cool. You printed my stuff...**BUT YOU SPELT MY NAME RIGHT!!!**

I'm gone,
Tung Nguyen

Hey—I bet you WROTE LEGIBLY!!! What a concept...

Dear Sam,

1. I like the new villain as a slug with a list and I'm sure we'll find out later what it is. I do have one question concerning the slug. Is he trying to appease the fairies, or trying to kill them?
2. I noticed that some panels look painted. Are they actually painted or does the colorist make them look like that? If they are, do you do this for a reason or just for fun?
3. So, Sarah can move the glass. Is this just with her subconscious mind or can she learn to do this consciously as her father said.
4. When this story is over, will you be doing someone that has no connection to the first two, or will you be going back to Julie?
Tom Johnson
Rutland, MA

1. **Appease.**
2. **Everything that looks painted was painted by me. Steve colors the rest. Nothing I do has a reason; I paint 'cause it's fun.**
3. **We just saw what her hand did just this issue (unless you're reading Maxx Traxx first), and since it comes from her subconscious, she has no control of it yet, so her conscious mind has a lot of trouble dealing.**
4. **For some reason I keep visualizing Julie's son and his Outback. Anybody curious about a male Outback?**

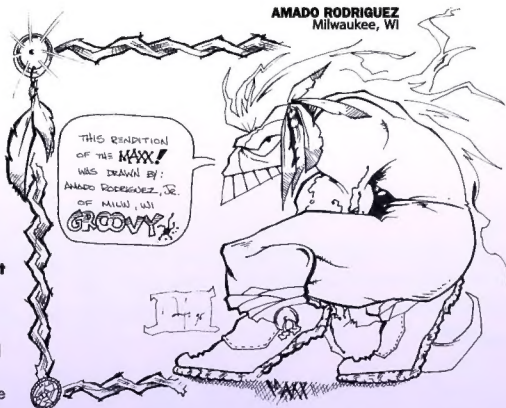
Sam,

What the #@% are you trying to do! Get me to stop reading? 21 and 22 suck! You changed Sarah to Sara and no Maxx. He's the whole freakin' reason I buy this comic! Oh yeah, the Gen13/Maxx crossover really sucks!

Now for the positive junk. The Maxx figure is very cool. (I really like the bendom ls.) Will there be a Mr.

SANDRO KOPP
Germany

AMADO RODRIGUEZ
Milwaukee, WI



Gone with a detachable head? Will there be a Maxx/Spawn crossover?

Oh, and Chris Olson, I discovered Maxx on MTV. I have also every freakin' issue (no offense, Sam). I have the poster, the figure, I'm a Maxxhead!! Chris shut the #@%* up about your MTV #*%!! Oh and Melissa K.'s letter made me write that last paragraph. So thank you Melissa. Oh and Sam, your comic kicks butt!

Alex Hackert
Long Beach, CA



Dear Sam,

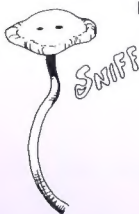
I am truly sorry about my comment about THE MAXX TV show in my last letter. I didn't mean that I didn't love the first season, it's that it is being shown on MTV. Now I hope I do not offend anyone, but my opinion is that MTV is easily the worst channel ever created! But, if that's all you can get, then I have no complaints. If it isn't, then I complain that the best book on

earth is being submitted to a bunch of Yo-boys who would mock it if it didn't come on their favorite channel. Anyways, I would rather have a show that attract people to my book instead of tempting them to discuss it on MTV YACK LIVE.

Love your book,
Nathaniel Long
Annapolis, MD

Any show or cartoon or toy that turns on one more Maxxhead is OK by me.





Dear Sam,
The itsy, bitsy is
Climbed up the water spout.
Up came THE MAXX,
To tear his gizard out.
Out cam Mr. Gone,
To cause THE MAXX some pain.
And the itsy, bitsy is
Attacked THE MAXX again.

Thanks for hearing
my thoughts,
Dustin Hutt
Colorado



Dear Sam Kieth,
In Maxx #19 Mr. Gone
popped his head through into
the real world and saw Julie.
He then said, "Great Googly
Moogly." In a Frank Zappa song
on the album, *Apostrophe*, the same
phrase, "great googly moogly," comes
up in "Nanook Rubs It." An inspira-
tion of yours?

Your watchful fan
Sean Ricci

**Actually it was Uncle
Mike (Heisler) who
came up with that.
It was 3 in the morning
and nobody could think
of anything profound for
Mr. G to say when he saw
the lamp.**



Hey Sam,

I saw there's a Frank Zappa album called *The
Grand Wazoo*. What other album names have you
taken and named places, persons, and things
with?

A lab accident gone
hideously mad,
Myron Smith
Ridgeway, VA

**OK, ya got me. I used to
listen to Zappa's music a
lot, and those old names
and images still fly through
my mind now and then.**

Dear Sam,

I've never written to a comic
book before. But then again you
aren't a comic book.

Todd
Chalmette, LA

Yo Mister Kieth,

#21 was extramundogously cool. (Oatmeal biscuit
to Alan for doing a good job, please!)
But I'm afraid I've already figured out
all the plotlines and secret
personalities:

Sara is really Sarah,

from Maxx 5-20 (I'm good, ain't I?)

Steve (who is actually Julie, who
robbed a bank and had to have an
operation to get away from the
cops) is going to cut Artie's head
off before we find out what the
truth is, and all this dream-reality-
crap will start anew. Sara will be
bitten by a radioactive spider and
decide to fight crime, and in the end,
the il banana slug will do something
to make the world end.

Sandro Kopp
Germany

P.S. I love-a Fred Flower and
Uncle Italian Moose.

**I think Dave and I started
something with The
Flower and The Moose.
Gee—a cult following after
just a one-page ad...**

CHUNG



Dear Sam,

When I read issues 21 and 22, I
thought you were nuts! I mean,
Sara(h) on welfare, and her
mom with cancer? Top it all
off with NO MAXX, and
you've got one angry David
(me). But after I read them
some more and read issue 23,
I realized that it's still a great
book.

Also, when I started to read those
issues, I realized that the bum Julie hit in
her car is named Dave. My name is David!! The old

MICK MORRIS
Lee's Summit, MO

"wino" that followed
Sara(h) around is
called Norbert. MY

LAST NAME IS NOR-
BERRY!!! Dave Norbert/David

Norbery? Wow!

Sincerely
David Norbery
(AKA The Maxx)

Wow!

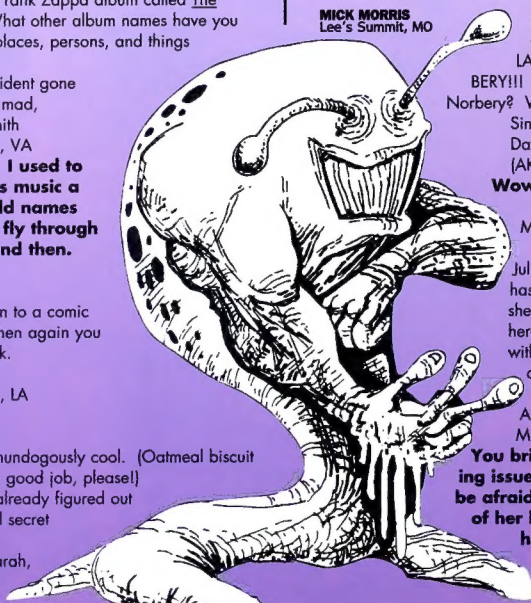
Mr. Kieth,

Sara is now "The
Julie" in the book, but she
has Gone's powers. Will
she be the villainess or the
heroine? (Lord knows,
with her disposition she
could conceivably be
both.)

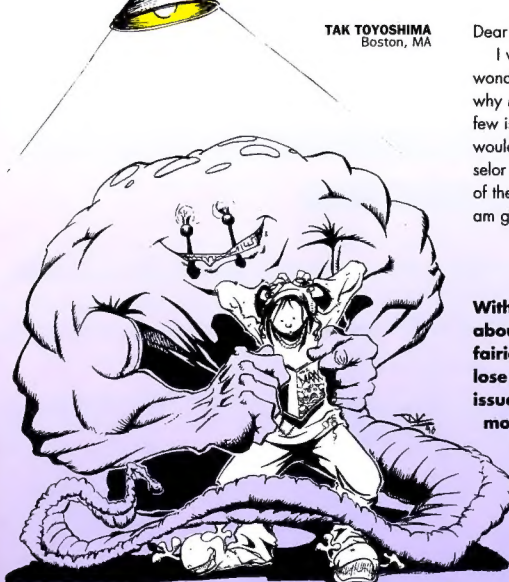
Amado Rodriguez, Jr.
Milwaukee, WI

**You bring up an interest-
ing issue—that Sara might
be afraid there's evil inside
of her because Gone is
her dad.**

I wonder...



TAK TOYOSHIMA
Boston, MA



Dear Sam,

I was reading through some back issues, and I was wondering if it would ever be explained as to how or why Mr. Gone became a Serial Rapist. Since the next few issues will be dealing with Mr Gone and Sarah, I would like to see this subject addressed. I am a counselor by profession, and I enjoy the multifaceted qualities of the characters, particularly Mr. Gone and Sarah. I am glad to see you addressing their characters more.

Thank you for your time,

John Merck
Gainesville, GA

JOHAN TOORELL
Sweden

With all this stuff about slugs and fairies, I don't want to lose sight of those issues either. But the more I keep adding, the more I have NO idea how to wrap this story up by #30.

Screw it. I guess the story will just have to dictate which issue we end up on.



Dear Sam,

This is about a letter I saw in issue #20 from Jason Quane. This is to anyone who has ever felt like him.

I was exactly like him, action figures and all, no hope of having any friends or a girlfriend. It was like that for a while and I almost gave up hope but then I realized I had to quit feeling sorry for myself, and as soon as I did that, everything changed—not in a day, it took a while and it was hard, but I did it. I have friends, a girlfriend, and a life.

Even now that I changed so much, I still come home every day to my action figures and Star Wars videos, but most of all, The Maxx. Chris Olsen was right: even now, if I lost all my friends and my girlfriend dumped me, I would still feel better knowing that no matter how many friends you have, there's always someone who feels just like you do and all your fellow Maxxheads are there for you.

From a friend

PS/HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS WE GET ASKED

ALL THE TIME: No subscriptions or retail sales available/sorry. Use Head to Head to find back issues/fan clubs/whatever (use the address in the indicia)/postcards are cheap and easy like us/WRITE LEGIBLY.

No we don't print all the letters or art we get/too many/yes we do read them ALL/you might get answered or printed or edited/you might not/life's funny that way. B&Wart

has better chance of being published than color/can't return artwork/sorry. Keep 'em coming/the better the letters and submissions, the better the book! Oh yeah.

BART SARIC
Santa Monica, CA





FRANK VAN SEIJEN
-1996-

FRANK VAN SEIJEN
The Netherlands